WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED

QUESTIONS Training of fishermen

4117. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposals from Tripura State about "Training of Traditional Fishermen for skill upgradation in Fish Processing", "Production of Fish Seed" and project on "Manufacturing of shidal (a cured fish product)" are pending with Government;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to sanction the proposal; and

(c) by when this would be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSIAN) : (a) and (b) The project of "Training of Traditional Fisherpersons for skill upgradation in Fish Processing" has been sanctioned and release of first instalment of Rs. 9.05 lakhs ordered on 30-3-1999.

The revised proposal from Government of Tripura for the "Production of Fish Feed" has been received on 29-3-2000. Further clarification has been sought from the State Government on 13-4-2000 and their response is awaited. The project regarding "Manufacturing of Shidal" was initially received on 22-2-1999 and the State Government was advised on 13-4-99 to send the proposal through NCDC. This was done and a copy of letter from State Government was received on 24-05-99. The State Government was asked for certain information/clarifications on 7-2-2000 and their response is awaited.

(c) The proposal will be considered for sanction after receipt of the information sought.

Decline in foodgrain production

4118. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in Dainik Jagran, New Delhi on 5th February, 2000 under the caption "Anaaj Utpadan mein bhari girawat ki aashanka";

(b) if so, the reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to increase foodgrain production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The statistics reported in the news-items are based on the advance estimates released by the central statistical Organisation. These in turn, were based on the assessment of crop condition made sometimes in January, 2000 Prolonged dry spell in several parts of the country adversely affected crop condition in several states. However, good rainfall since mid January, 2000 in the country has improved prospects of foodgrains. As per latest assessment if agro-climatic conditions remain favourable, there is not expected to be any inordinate decline in production of foodgrains during the year 1999-2000.

(c) Review of production is a continuous process to increase production and productivity of foodgrains in the country, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated cereal development programmes in rice/wheat/ coarse cereals Based Cropping System Area, National Pulses Development Project etc. Under these programmes/project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and use of improved farm implements. Reserch is also being continuously undertaken to develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity and production of foodgrains in India. Field demonstrations on farmers' holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers is being organised for effective transfer of technology.

Deaths due to heat-wave

4119. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of deaths due to sun stroke and heat-wave in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to deal with the problem;

(c) the number of people died due to sunstroke and heat-wave in that State; and

(d) the details thereof?